



The Battalion

105 YEARS AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Task force eyes changes to campus transportation

BY CARRIE BENNETT
The Battalion

A member of the Campus Access Task Force said one of the largest issues the task force has been discussing is the possibility of constructing a bus corridor, which would allow buses to travel across main campus without having to travel on George Bush or University drives.
Doug Williams, associate director of Parking Traffic and Transportation Services (PTTS), said the corridor would involve constructing a campus roadway because currently there is no circular route on main campus.
The Campus Access Task Force will break into different groups and meet this summer to discuss preliminary recommendations to improve campus access including simplifying on-campus transit, pedestrian travel and visitor accommodations, among which the bus corridor is one idea that is being evaluated.
"The central theme to the discussions has been the idea of a bus corridor to make it easier to get around campus," Williams said.
Williams said other changes discussed include placing a visible patrol on campus at night, providing more emergency phones and more signs to give pedestrians a reference point.
Williams said the task force is discussing facilitating bicycle transit. He said covered storage areas, marked bicycle paths and an increased number of bicycle racks are options being discussed by the task force.
He said accommodations for visitors to campus in the areas of parking and sign improve-

ments would allow smoother travel on campus have also been discussed.
"Physical improvements such as visitor booths and speed bumps have been discussed," he said.
Mary Miller, chair of the task force and associate vice president for administration, said the task force, which consists of representatives from faculty, staff students, visitors and members of PTTS, will have a package of recommendations to improve campus access ready at the end of the summer.
"The campus grew quickly in a short period of time, so we are trying to accommodate the increased number of people and increased number of buildings," Miller said.
Miller said the task force will work proactively to improve campus access in the future.

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Changes discussed by task force

- Construction of a bus corridor
- Visible campus patrol at night
- More emergency telephones
- More pedestrian reference signs
- Covered bicycle storage areas
- Marked cycling paths
- More bicycle racks
- Visitor information booths
- Added speed bumps

GABRIEL RUENES/THE BATTALION

Painting the town



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Libby Woodward, a senior environmental design major, paints in her ARTS 205 class Monday. The free-form painting class is offered through the College of Architecture.

Reaching out

Program offers students incentive for college enrollment

BY RYAN WEST
The Battalion

The director of the University Outreach Center in Houston said the outreach program is an opportunity to mold and shape students of a low socioeconomic status, and it motivates the students to go to college.
This is the 11th year University Outreach, a joint venture between Texas A&M University and the University of Texas, has worked to reach these students.
The six centers throughout

Texas, including A&M's three centers in San Antonio, Corpus Christi and Houston, reach more than 3,000 students.
Antoinette Morrell, director of the University Outreach Center in San Antonio, said the program strives to help students realize that college is an attainable goal.
Students from eighth to 12th grade, who have an A or B grade point average, are recommended for the program by their teachers. These students then submit an application, along with a list of academic activities they are currently involved with

and their last report card to University Outreach. If they are selected for the program, they will attend bi-monthly meetings during the academic year.
Morrell said the program offers college information workshops on study skills, time management and preparation for college courses.
The students in San Antonio are also required to volunteer for organizations such as Ronald McDonald Houses and child advocacy centers in the city.
SEE OUTREACH ON PAGE 2.



TERRY ROBERSON/THE BATTALION

Experts say sunny skies like these will get even sunnier this summer as temperatures are expected to climb in the coming months. They also predict an increase in the number of tropical storms to hit Texas.

Experts predict hotter weather, storms for Texas this summer

BY STUART HUTSON
The Battalion

Meteorologists said temperatures this summer in Bryan-College Station are predicted to be warmer than usual, though less severe than last year's record-breaking heat wave, and turbulent weather in the tropics could lead to high humidity and strong tropical storms.
John Nielsen-Gammon, associate professor of meteorology and acting state climatologist, and Bob French, chief meteorologist for KBTX-TV, said temperatures will probably be normal or higher than normal, ranging from the mid- to upper 90s.
Thomas Crowley, professor of oceanography, said precipitation is not easy to predict this summer.
"Last summer was clearly going to be hot and dry, but this year, there is no clear trend for this area," he said.
French said precipitation will be hard to forecast but

said a current from the turbulent tropics into the Gulf of Mexico could bring more rainfall this summer, but the extra humidity may make it feel as hot as last summer.
"The extra moisture in the atmosphere makes it harder for a person to cool down by sweating," he said. "People should avoid doing strenuous work outside between noon to 5 in the afternoon since these are the hottest hours of the day."
The conditions in the tropics are expected to bring an active storm and hurricane season to Texas.
William Gray, a professor of meteorology at Colorado State University, said he predicts 14 significant tropical storms, 10 hurricanes and 4 intense hurricanes.
French said these storms may strike the Gulf Coast.
"We are really getting overdue on the Texas coast for a major hurricane strike," he said.
The last hurricanes to hit Texas were hurricanes Jerry and Chantal in 1989.